

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2018

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:30 P.M. on January 9, 2018, at the Conklin Town Hall. Mr. Dumian, Supervisor, presided. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Town Board Members Boyle, Farley, Platt, Francisco, Dumian

Town Counsel	Cheryl Sacco
Town Clerk	Sherrie L. Jacobs
Secretary to the Supervisor	Lisa Houston
Highway Superintendent	Brian Coddington
Code Officer/Dog Control Officer	Nick Vascello
Assistant Code Officer	Nick Pappas
Crew Leader	Tom DeLamarter

GUESTS: **Country Courier** Elizabeth Einstein
Veratex Ryan Remza
Deeley Physical Therapy Evelyn Deeley
Paul Deeley
Sophia Pappas
James Gardiner
Kaitlyn Gow
Breanna Bushong
Laurie Francisco
LeRoy Jenkins
Tom Kelly
John Colley

MINUTES: DECEMBER 12, 2017 REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Francisco stated that the December 12, 2017 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes should be clarified on page 3, second paragraph, under the discussion regarding chickens in Conklin. He stated that he is aware of property in his neighborhood which contains 7 or 8 acres, with only less than an acre being useable, due to geographical features such as cliffs or streams. He wished to make the point that the size of a property does not necessarily equate to the amount of useable space.

Mr. Francisco moved to approve the December 12, 2017 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes with the above listed clarification.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Dumian reiterated that he is disappointed that the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has declined to reduce the speed limit on Route 7A, citing yet another recent accident on that stretch of roadway. He stated that the Town will approach the NYSDOT again with this proposal in six months. He stated that there has been no response from the NYSDOT regarding the intersection at Powers Road and Conklin Road.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS:

STREET LIGHTS

John Colley of Millburn Drive asked Mr. Francisco about the status of dysfunctional street lights in the Town, as Mr. Francisco has been serving as liaison to NYSEG (New York State Electric and Gas Corporation) from the Town regarding street lights. Mr. Francisco stated that NYSEG reports that most malfunctioning street lights have been repaired, although, he added, some are still malfunctioning. He noted that he received a complaint just today regarding a non-functioning light on Maxwell Court. Mr. Colley stated that there are two street lights on Millburn Drive that are not working.

REPORT: SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

The report is on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

REPORT: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent Brian Coddington reported that his department has been working on repairs to the pickup truck. He stated that he is interested in purchasing a Skidsteer for the department, to be paid for utilizing funds from the sale of surplus equipment. He stated that the Skidsteer has a broom attachment that would replace the broom that the Highway Department used to have that was no longer useable.

Town Attorney Cheryl Sacco stated that she researched the contract to purchase the newest truck for the Highway Department and learned that the correct contract number is 7823, not the one previously stated. She stated that she confirmed that the Town of Conklin can "piggyback" on the Onondaga County bid to purchase the truck, noting that the permissive referendum period for the borrowing to finance the purchase of this truck will end in time to be effective on February 14.

REPORT: WATER & SEWER/PARKS

Crew Leader Tom DeLamarter, who oversees the Water and Sewer and Parks Departments, reported that the Highway Department has the box and lift gate from the 1997 Ford Parks truck and he wants to sell the frame of the truck for scrap metal. Ms. Sacco stated that the Board will need to pass a resolution declaring the truck surplus equipment, to be sold at scrap metal value.

Mr. DeLamarter discussed the recent water problem at International Paper. He explained that International Paper has its own water tank, which is supposed to be shut down in the winter but was not shut down, causing a pipe to break inside the building and water to drain from the Town water reservoir tanks. Mr. DeLamarter stated that 750,000 gallons of water were lost, adding that the Town will bill International Paper for the cost of the lost water.

Mr. DeLamarter reported that the Broome County Health Department completed its inspection of the Town water supply and stated that everything is in compliance and the water supply system is "well managed." He stated that the parts have been delivered to replace the pumps and complete repairs at Sewer Station 3. Mr. DeLamarter also stated that he has been in contact with A. C. Spear to complete the Quick Connect for the generator project at the Town Hall, but noted that the electricity and computers in the building will have to be shut down for a period of time.

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Mr. DeLamarter reported that the liner for the Town Ice Rink has been delivered and asked if the Board wants the rink put up this late in the season so that residents can use it whatever time is available in appropriate weather or wait until the 2019 winter season when it could be put up earlier in the year. Mr. Platt stated that he thinks the ice rink should be put up and that the Town should buy a trail cam (camera) for approximately \$50 to monitor people using the rink and to discourage vandalism. Mr. Dumian stated that the variable weather might give people “a false sense of security” in which they think the ice is solid enough to skate on, but it really is not, and damage could inadvertently be done to the liner. Mr. DeLamarter stated that “\$1,700 (the cost of a new liner) is not that much every two years for kids to have a chance to skate.” He agreed with the purchase of a camera and would like additional signage with very strong language regarding prosecution of vandals and trespassers. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town should put up the ice rink and Mr. Francisco agreed. Mr. Coddington stated that his department can work with the Parks Department this Thursday or Friday to put up the ice rink.

REPORT: CODE OFFICER

Code Officer Nick Vascello stated that he has been working with some property owners on small violations and has been working to complete fire inspections. He noted that he completed 46 fire inspections in 2017.

OLD BUSINESS:

TOWN HALL ISSUES

Mr. Dumian reported that the water sensor installed in the boiler room is effective, noting that he received notification recently when there was water on the boiler room floor. He stated that it is “money well spent.”

Mr. Dumian stated that the new server for the Town Hall computer system has been installed and that the transition went smoothly.

STILLWATER ROAD DRAINAGE PROJECT

Mr. Dumian reported that the Norfolk Southern Railroad agreed to let the Town bore under the tracks to provide drainage to the Susquehanna River and has sent the Town a contract stating this fact. He stated that easements for a right-of-way are needed from two property owners. Mr. Dumian stated that one easement has been secured and Town Engineer John Mastronardi of Griffiths Engineering is working with the property owner on the second easement. Ms. Sacco stated that the Town can utilize eminent domain if necessary to get the needed easement.

NEW BUSINESS:

WELLNESS CENTER/COMMUNITY CENTER

Mr. Dumian stated that the bids for the architectural and engineering services and for the construction manager have been received and a committee needs to be formed to review the bids, utilizing a point system, so that the bids can be awarded. The bid documents are very large in scope, and will either need to be sent directly to GOSR (Governor’s Office for Storm Recovery) for review or be scanned and pdf documents created, probably utilizing a company such as Dataflow, with the scanned documents being sent to GOSR.

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Mr. Dumian stated that the Wellness Center/Community Center project is going in a “different direction,” noting that it has not gone through The Agency’s approval process as is. He stated that the new plan is for the Town to own the new Community Center and possibly Day Care Center, with Ascension Health to own the Wellness Center, which would be housed in a separate building. Rising Community Grant funds are being utilized for this project. Mr. Dumian stated that there is a possibility that The Agency will gift the land for the Community Center to the Town. He stated that the scope of the bids would need to be revisited due to the change in plans.

Mr. Dumian reiterated that the Town of Conklin did **NOT** receive \$4.3 million in grant funding. He stated that the Town was awarded \$1.8 to \$2.2 million from Rising Community Grant monies to construct a Community Center and possibly a Day Care Center. Mr. Farley asked who will be responsible for maintenance on the new Community Center. Mr. Dumian explained that when it was thought that The Agency would own the building, The Agency would have been responsible for maintenance of the exterior of the building, while the Town would have been responsible for the maintenance of the interior of the building. He stated that the lease amount was to be only the cost of utilities used for the building.

Mr. Platt asked if the grant money will be enough to construct the Community Center and Mr. Dumian replied that it is enough. Mr. Francisco asked if there is a deadline by which the grant funds need to be spent and Mr. Dumian replied that he has not heard of any such deadline. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town owning the Community Center building will be “a positive.” Mr. Boyle stated that the old design was too small to accommodate the Town’s needs, adding that he was also concerned with having a lifetime lease on the building. Mr. Dumian stated that he thinks the Community Center, which would also have showers and could serve as a refuge in the event of an emergency, should be at least 6,000 square feet in size. Mr. Farley stated that he thinks having the Town own the building is a better situation, and Mr. Platt and Mr. Francisco agreed, making the consensus of the Town Board in agreement that the Town’s ownership of the new Community Center building is a better situation.

PROPOSAL TO REPLACE STREET LIGHTS WITH LED LIGHTS

Ryan Remza of Veratex gave a presentation to the Town Board regarding the possibility of replacing the current high pressure sodium street lights with new LED (Light Emitting Diode) fixtures. He stated that the current cost to the Town to lease the street lights from NYSEG is \$7.79 per month for each fixture, with some fixtures dating back to 1968, making them “obsolete.” He stated that the Town could save 39% on energy costs by switching to LED fixtures, which he stated give the same lumen output as the high pressure sodium lights.

When asked about cost, Mr. Remza estimated that the cost of the fixtures would be approximately \$222 per fixture. Mr. Dumian stated that this should mean a savings of \$1,800 per month if all the fixtures in Light District SE3 were replaced. Mr. Francisco stated that the Town would be required to pay NYSEG a salvage rate and disconnect fee. He added that NYSEG will no longer provide repair service for the lights if the Town replaces the fixtures. Mr. Dumian stated that the Board needs to know how much it would cost to install the new fixtures. Mr. Francisco stated that LED lights provide less light to ground penetration than high pressure sodium lights.

Mr. Remza stated that the LED lights have a 10 year warranty, with a life expectancy of 27.8 years. Mr. Farley asked who would be responsible for maintenance and Mr. Remza replied that the Town would be responsible. He suggested contacting a contractor, as a bucket truck would

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be necessary to perform repairs. Mr. Dumian stated that the Conklin Volunteer Fire Department might be willing to loan their bucket truck to the Town for that purpose.

Mr. Dumian stated that the Town will need to know if any NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) grants are available for this project and what the cost per fixture would be for installation before it can consider making the change in light fixtures. Mr. Remza suggested putting the installation project out to bid, with an engineer creating the bid specifications.

Mr. Platt stated that there are 28 street lights on Pierce Creek Road which seem to be unused, adding that they have been in place since 1968. He wondered if these lights could be removed. Ms. Sacco cautioned that the savings mentioned would be Light District-specific, not Town-wide. She stated that the Town of Union just completed a similar project, if the Board would like to contact that municipality for their input.

RESO 2018-1: APPROVE PAYMENT OF BANDS/2018 CONCERT IN THE PARK SERIES/BANDS DESIGNATED BY TOM DELAMARTER

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves payment, account code A7110.4.401, to the bands of the 2018 Concert in the Park series, with bands designated by Tom DeLamarter.

Seconded by Mr. Platt.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Abstain, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion carried: 4 – Yes, 1 – Abstain.

The Town Board agreed that the Town will host seven concerts in 2018.

RESO 2018-2: AUTHORIZE OFFICERS & EMPLOYEES/RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT OF MILEAGE FOR USE OF PERSONAL VEHICLE FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS ONLY

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes the officers and employees herein named to receive reimbursement of mileage for use of personal vehicles at the current IRS Standard Mileage Rate per mile for the performance of their duties on official business only: Supervisor, Town Clerk, Zoning Board members, Planning Board members, Town Historian, Town Justice, Secretary to the Supervisor, Town Assessor, Youth Commissioner, Parks and Water Department personnel, Code Department personnel, the Town Board members, Justice Clerks, and Deputy Town Clerk.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

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RESO 2018-3: APPROVE GRIFFITHS ENGINEERING/TOWN ENGINEERING FIRM/2018/RATES QUOTED IN CORRESPONDENCE LETTER

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves Griffiths Engineering as the Town of Conklin Engineering Firm for the year 2018 at the rates quoted in the correspondence letter.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dumian noted that there is no increase in Griffiths Engineering's rates for 2018.

RESO 2018-4: APPROVE BLUESTORM TECHNOLOGIES/TOWN IT SERVICES/2018

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves BlueStorm Technologies as the Town of Conklin IT Service provider for 2018 at a rate of \$846.00 per month (\$10,152.00 annually).

Seconded by Mr. Platt.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2018-5: RATIFY ACH WIRE PAYMENT/PITNEY BOWES/PURCHASE OF POSTAGE METER REFILL

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment, various department account codes, of an ACH wire payment in the amount of \$500.00 to Pitney Bowes for purchase of a postage meter refill.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2018-6: APPROVE PARKS & WATER EMPLOYEES/COLIN CASEY & NICK PLATT/ ADDITIONAL YEARLY ALLOWANCE/\$700 EACH/UNIFORMS AND CLEANING

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves Parks and Water Department employees Colin Casey and Nick Platt to receive an additional yearly clothing allowance of \$700.00 each for uniforms and cleaning. Employees must be dressed in a manner appropriate to their job duties and in a manner appropriate with the weather.

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Seconded by Mr. Farley.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2018-7: RATIFY PAYMENT/W2OPERATOR TRAINING GROUP, LLC/
NICK PLATT & COLIN CASEY/ATTEND WATER OPERATOR WINTER
WORKSHOP/JANUARY 26, 2018/CORTLAND, NEW YORK**

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment of check #13300, account code SW8310.4, in the amount of \$120.00 to W2Operator Training Group, LLC, for registration fee for Nick Platt and Colin Casey to attend the Water Operator Winter Workshop to be held on January 26, 2018, in Cortland, New York.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2018-8: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT/PRE-APPROVED CLAIMS/BILL LIST/
12-27-2017/\$98,660.79**

Mr. Platt moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes payment of the following pre-approved claims on the Bill List dated December 27, 2017, in the total amount of \$98,660.79:

General	\$ 36,438.73
Highway	44,300.87
Light Districts	2,379.94
Sewer Districts	1,615.77
Water Districts	7,271.48
Non-Budget	<u>6,654.00</u>
Total	\$ 98,660.79

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2018-9: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT/BILL LIST OF 2017 & 2018/\$234,551.11

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes payment of the following Bill List of 2017 and 2018 in the total amount of \$234,551.11:

General	\$ 156,252.69
Highway	35,483.00
Sewer Districts	28,524.56
Water Districts	<u>14,290.86</u>
Total	\$ 234,551.11

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Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2018-10: ASSIGN COMMITTEES/2018

Mr. Platt moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin assigns the following Committees for the year 2018:

Town Hall Castle	Dell Boyle
Community Center Rental & Non-Profit Rental	Charles Francisco
Community Center Building	Dell Boyle
Senior Citizen Liaison	Charles Francisco
Town Wide Electrical & NYSEG	Charles Francisco
Town Wide Insurance	Bill Dumian
Town Flood Insurance	Will Platt
Town Grounds & Flood Lots	Will Platt
Drainage Districts	Dell Boyle
Cemeteries	Bill Farley
Fire Department Liaison	Charles Francisco
Youth Liaison	Bill Farley
Planning Board	Bill Farley
Zoning Board of Appeals	Will Platt
Highway Department & Garage	Bill Dumian
Deputy Supervisor	Charles Francisco
Code Department	Bill Farley
Public Works Department	Bill Dumian

Seconded by Mr. Boyle.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2018-11: APPROVE RE-APPOINTMENT/JAMES
HAUSS/CHAIRMAN/PLANNING BOARD/FIVE-YEAR TERM/
01-01-2018 – 12-31-2022

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves the re-appointment of James Hauss to the position of Chairman of the Planning Board for a five-year term to run from January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2022.

Seconded by Mr. Boyle.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2018-12: DECLARE 1997 FORD PICKUP/SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

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Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin declares the 1997 Ford Pickup Truck to be surplus equipment.

Seconded by Mr. Platt.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2018-13: SELL 1997 FORD PICKUP /AS SCRAP/GARY'S U-PULL-IT

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes the sale of the 1997 Ford Pickup to Gary's U-Pull-It for scrap metal pricing.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

TAX COLLECTION INFORMATION/TOWN CONTACT INFORMATION

Mr. Boyle showed the Board an old tax collection information sheet that also included the contact information for various departments within the Town, and asked if this is something the Town could do again. Ms. Sacco stated that it was part of an old Town Newsletter and added that the Town could include this information if it decides to print another Newsletter.

FIRE HYDRANTS

Mr. Francisco requested that residents shovel snow away from fire hydrants to make them more accessible to the Fire Department. He also asked if cars are parking too close to the hydrant near East Coast Customs but was told that the cars are parked far enough away from the hydrant to allow access.

BINGHAMTON-JOHNSON CITY JOINT SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Mr. Dumian reported that the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant is expected to cost more than \$300 million in repairs, adding that he has been told "some rates could double." He stated that the Town cannot pass along sewer increases of that magnitude to its residents. He has called Binghamton Mayor Rich David and will also be speaking with Johnson City Mayor Deemie about possible solutions. Mr. Dumian stated that he will also be reaching out to State Senator Fred Akshar, Assemblyman Clifford Crouch, and to Congresswoman Claudia Tenney for assistance. Mr. Dumian urged residents to call their representatives about this issue.

CONKLIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT/KNOX BOXES

Mr. Dumian stated that the Conklin Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., has sent letters to businesses in Town that have commercial fire alarms but to which the fire department has no

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emergency access. He stated that New York State Code requires that businesses with commercial fire alarms have Knox Boxes, which would allow the fire department access. Mr. Dumian stated that the fire department is working with Code Officer Nick Vascello and Assistant Code Officer Nick Pappas to approach businesses that have not yet responded to the letter from the fire department. Mr. DeLamarter commented that the Water Department also needs access in case of a water emergency, such as the one that occurred at International Paper over the New Year's Day weekend. Mr. Vascello stated that he is obtaining 24-hour contact phone numbers for businesses as he is completing fire inspections. Mr. Dumian stated that Knox Boxes should be installed at the Town Hall and at Schnurbusch Park, which he added would cost \$500 to \$600.

RESO 2018-14: RECESS FOR LEGAL ADVICE

Mr. Farley moved to close the Regular Town Board Meeting and recess for Legal Advice at 7:45 P.M.

Seconded by Mr. Platt.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Vascello, Mr. Pappas, and Ms. Houston were asked to stay for the closed session.

RESO 2018-15: RE-OPEN REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Platt moved to come out of recess for Legal Advice and re-open the Regular Town Board Meeting at 8:27 P.M.

Seconded by Mr. Boyle.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Farley moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Boyle. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs
Town Clerk